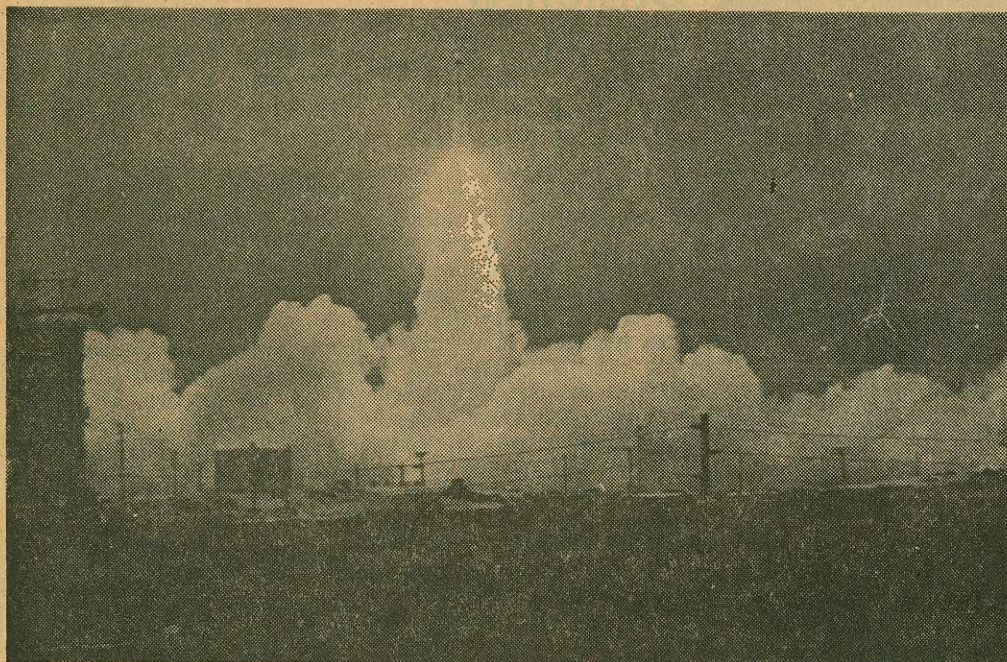


# Launching Of Satellite Provides Exc



The \$176 million ERTS (Earth Resources Technology Satellite) was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California Sunday. Pictures taken by ERTS

cameras will be processed by the EROS (Earth Resources Observation Systems) facilities at Sioux Falls.

By THOMAS A. DEMPSTER  
Sioux Falls

Development Foundation

"T — 60 seconds and counting. . . .

T — 30 seconds and counting. . . . This is mission control T—29, 28, 27. . . ."

Members of the delegation representing the Sioux Falls Development Foundation stretched their eyes over the 8,000-foot expanse of dry, California Vandenberg Air Force Base Test Facilities, eyeing the 110-foot sleek launch vehicle readying to thrust the ERTS-A Satellite into orbit.

"T minus 26 seconds, 25, 24. . . ."

Twenty-three — South Dakotans, disappointed by the two delays of the launching, peered anxiously at the rocket. Al Schock, president of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation and leader of the delegation, stopped distributing Sioux Falls EROS brochures to correspondents from Time-Life, NBC and ABC and turned and stood in anxious readiness, his eyes finally turned towards the 996,000-pound thrust rocket.

"T minus 15, 14, 13, 12, 11."

News correspondents from Sioux Falls and area press thrust their cameras to their eyes, ready to record the launch on film, recording tape and paper.

"T minus 10, 9, 8, 7, . . . ."

All eyes were on the launch vehicle.

"6, 5, 4. . . ."

Russ Pohl, sitting directly behind the launch director at Mission Control, saw a small red light, amidst hundreds of lights on the control panel, flash ominously. The flashing red light was followed by the voice of mission control,

"3—2. . . . AND HOLDING! WE ARE HOLDING! WE ARE HOLDING!"

Almost in unison, the 500



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spectators let Cameras were swing on the searched from to one anothe background ca Mission Contro

"We are ho possible mal voice droned window will c

Jim Bjorkkl foundation di Vick Myers, director, and tration. Ray and Sioux Val tric, glanced buses, hoping be boarding o appointment.

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# s Exciting Moments For Watchers



Part of a Sioux Falls delegation listens to a guide explain the launching of the spacecraft in California. Among those who watched the 1,900-pound satellite get boosted 500 miles above the South Pole and into a circular orbit were, from left, David Stenseth, executive vice president of the

Sioux Falls Development Foundation; Arthur de Wit, representing the Sioux Falls Jaycees; Jim Bjorklund, development foundation director, and Al Schock, president of the development foundation.

spectators let out a groan. Cameras were returned to again swing on their chains. Eyes searched from the launch pad to one another. Stiffled in the background came the voice of Mission Control.

"We are holding, checking a possible malfunction." The voice droned on, "The launch window will close at 11:27."

Jim Bjorklund, development foundation director, turned to Vick Myers, remote sensing director, and shrugged in frustration. Ray Kuhl of MIKOTA and Sioux Valley Empire Electric, glanced at the 17 empty buses, hoping that he would not be boarding one of them in disappointment.

Glenn Landis, chief of the Data Center, rested his chin in his hand, recalling the two previous postponements of the launch. Undaunted, Schock introduced himself to Laszlo Doso, news correspondent for Voice of America, and

handed him brochures telling the Sioux Falls story.

And then came the voice of Mission Control, "Ready to resume countdown, T-minus 60 seconds and counting."

Everyone, everything was silent.

"T - minus 50 seconds and counting"

The only sound was the eight-knot wind scurrying over the California dry lands.

"T-minus 30 seconds."

Oxygen burn-off continued to surround the base of the long, sleek, white monster.

"T-minus 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. . . . Ignition. . ."

The white monster billowed flames and thunder from its mouth. Hundreds of frames of movie film and hundreds of camera shutters snapped. The shiny, now almost luminous lumbering monster, bellowing smoke and fire, looked almost as if it were being slowly levi-

tated towards the sullen sky. A low, deep, tumultuous roar permeated the air, as the sky gulped, and the monster slipped behind the hungry sky.

The Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTSA) now will provide images taken from space to the Sioux Falls EROS Data Center, providing information ranging from agricultural crop statistics to Canadian duck counts.

The trip afforded members of the Sioux Falls delegation an opportunity to discuss with NASA officials the role that Sioux Falls and the EROS Data Center will play in the project, and to show governmental officials the strong Sioux Falls interest and concern about the project.

The Capitol dome in Denver is plated with gold leaf worth more than \$14,000.

**7 Sioux Falls Argus-Leader**  
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